

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 EB-11 CIEP-03 TRSE-00 STR-08 OMB-01

CEA-02 COME-00 FRB-03 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01

SAB-01 NIC-01 PC-10 DRC-01 /183 W

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R 081833Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3174

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MEXICO 6719

DEPT PLEASE PASS ALL ARA POSTS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XM, MX

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S TRIP

1. IN A REVIEW OF THE TRIP OF PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA THROUGH LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN FOREIGN MINISTER RABASA MADE THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS DURING A PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH ME AT HIS HOME:

A. EVALUATION OF RESULTS OF TRIP - IN RABASA'S OPINION THE TRIP HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL AND HAD IN FACT BUILT UPON THE RESULTS OF ECHEVERRIA'S PREVIOUS TRIPS TO LATIN AMERICA (PROPOSAL FOR CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES AT SANTIAGO) AND TO EUROPEAN AND THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES. ECHEVERRIA HAD BEEN RECEIVED WITH ENTHUSIASM AT MOST STOPS WHILE IN BRAZIL THE RECEPTION WAS AT LEAST CORDIAL. THE TRIP WAS INTENDED TO PROJECT MEXICAN PRESENCE INTO SOUTH AMERICA IN THE FEELING THAT DURING PAST ADMIN-ISTRATIONS MEXICO HAD SOMEWHAT ABDICATED ITS ROLE THERE WHILE SOUTH AMERICA FOR ITS PART WAS INCLINED TO VIEW MEXICO AS  
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SOMETHING OF A "SPECIAL CASE" IN VIEW OF ITS PROXIMITY BOTH

TO U.S. INFLUENCE AND TO U.S. MARKET. ECHEVERRIA IN ADDITION TO LOBBYING FOR HIS CHARTER ALSO WANTED TO PROJECT HIS OWN IMAGE FOR INTERNAL AND HEMISPHERIC LEADERSHIP PURPOSES. (RABASA RECOGNIZES PRIVATELY, HOWEVER, ASPIRATIONS FOR HEMISPHERIC LEADERSHIP ARE UNREALISTIC FOR ALMOST ANY LATIN AMERICAN LEADER, PARTICULARLY ONE WHO IS NOW IN HIS LAST YEARS IN OFFICE.)

B. ECHEVERRIA "NOT BASICALLY ANTI-AMERICAN" - RABASA RECOGNIZES THAT MUCH OF ECHEVERRIA RHETORIC CAN BE INTERPRETED AS ANTI-AMERICAN I.E. CALLS FOR INDEPENDENCE OF LATIN AMERICA FROM OUTSIDE NEO-COLONIALIST INFLUENCES, THE PROPOSAL FOR A REGIONAL "MUTUAL PROTECTION" ORGANIZATION TO DETERMINE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC INTERESTS, REMARKS REGARDING U.S. AVIATION POLICY, ON LAW OF THE SEA, ETC. AND HIS GENERALLY THIRD WORLD TONE. HE SAID HE WISHED TO REASSURE US ON THIS SCORE. IN HIS OPINION ECHEVERRIA HAS NO FUNDAMENTAL BIAS AGAINST THE U.S., HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN THE PAST AND RECOGNIZES IMPORTANCE OF U.S. MARKET, U.S. INVESTMENT, ETC. MOREOVER, "ECHEVERRIA IS TOO MUCH OF A POLITICIAON" TO HAVE A TRUE ANTI-U.S. BIAS. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE IS EAGER TO FLIRT WITH THE NATIONALIST LEFT BOTH IN HIS OWN COUNTRY AND THROUGHOUT LATIN AMERICA, IS EASILY CARRIED AWAY IN SPEECHES AND IS INTERESTED IN BUILDING AN IMAGE, "HOWEVER UNREALISTIC" AS A THIRD WORLD/ LATIN AMERICAN LEADER. RABASA SPOKE WITH SOME BITTERNESS OF YOUNG GROUP OF INTIMATE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISERS, HEADED BY FRANCISCO JAVIER ALEJO. THIS "BRAIN TRUST" PUTS RADICAL IDEAS IN PRESIDENT'S HEAD "AGAINST ADVICE OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS AND OTHER MORE SOBER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS".

C. PROPOSED LATIN AMERICAN PROTECTIVE ORGANIZATION - RABASA SAID THAT THIS PROPOSAL FOR A NEW PURELY LATIN AMERICAN ORGANIZATION CAME UP UNEXPECTANTLY AT A DELEGATION MEETING AT LIMA PROPOSED BY ONE OF THE "BRAIN TRUSTERS" (REFERRED TO ABOVE). RABASA AND MORE TRDITIONAL MEMBERS OF PRESIDENTIAL PARTY WERE OPPOSED TO PROPOSAL, ARGUING THAT A PLETHORA OF HEMISPHERIC ORGANIZATIONS

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ALREADY EXISTED, SOME OF WHICH--SUCH AS THE OAS AND ECLA-- INCLUDED THE U.S. AND OTHERS WHICH WERE PURELY LATIN, SUCH AS CECLA AND LAFTA. IT WAS A MATTER OF MAKING OF EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS MORE RESOURCEFUL AND EFFECTIVE RATHER THAN CREATING NEW ONES. TO RABASA'S OBVIOUS RESENTMENT, THE BRAIN TRUSTERS WON THE DAY, AND ECHEVERRIA PROPOSED THE FORMATION OF A NEW ORGANIZATION IN HIS LIMA SPEECHES AND THEN REPEATED THE PROPOSAL AT SUBSEQUENT

STOPS. IT WAS RABASA'S IMPRESSION THAT THIS PROPOSAL WAS RECEIVED WITH POLITE INDIFFERENCE UNTIL THE PARTY'S ARRIVAL AT CARACAS WHERE PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEPEZ WAS ENTHUSIASTIC AND IN FACT INSISTED THAT IT BE REFERRED TO IN COMMUNIQUE AS JOINT MEXICAN-VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE. (THIS WAS AGREES TO ONLY OVER OBJECTIONS FROM MEXICAN PRESIDENTIAL PARTY WHICH HOPED TO ASCRIBE PROPOSAL SOLEY TO ECHEVERRIA.) RABASA SAID THAT IN VIEW OF GENERAL INDIFFERENCE TO PROPOSAL AND TO WIDE-SPREAD LATIN VIEW THAT PLETHORA OF ORGANIZATIONS ALREADY EXISTED HE THOUGHT PROPOSAL WOULD FIND SLOW GOING AND MIGHT NEVER REACH REALIZATION.

D. CONCEPT OF LATIN MULTINATIONALS V.S. U.S. DOMINATED TRANSNATIONALS - RABASA SAID THAT THIS WAS ANOTHER NOT PARTICULARLY WELL THOUGHT OUT ECHEVERRIA PROPOSAL. HE FORESAW MANY OBSTACLES DUE TO LACK OF LATIN RESOURCES-- BOTH FINANCIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL. NEVERTHELESS HE SAID THAT IT WAS PROBABLE THAT SOME JOINT VENTURES WOULD COME OUT OF THE TRIP PARTICULARLY BETWEEN MEXICAN AND BRAZILIAN PRIVATE SECTORS; OBSERVING THAT MEXICAN PARTY--INCLUDING PRESIDENT, WERE AWESTRUCK BY BRAZILIAN MATERIAL PROGRESS.

E. IMPRESSIONS OF LATIN AMERICAN PRESIDENTS VISITED - RABASA (WHO ACTUALLY LIKE MOST MEXICANS SEEMS TO KNOW MUCH LESS ABOUT SOUTH AMERICA, ITS POLICIES AND PERSONALITIES THAN ONE MIGHT THINK) GAVE THE FOLLOWING OPINIONS REGARDING THE SITUATIONS IN THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES VISITED.

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ALL ARA POSTS.

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 EB-11 CIEP-03 TRSE-00 STR-08 OMB-01

CEA-02 COME-00 FRB-03 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01

SAB-01 NIC-01 PC-10 DRC-01 /183 W

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R 081833Z AUG 74  
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3175

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MEXICO 6719

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, XM, MX  
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S TRIP

DEPT PLEASE PASS ALL ARA POSTS

1. ECUADOR - THE PRESIDENT IS VERY MEDIOCRE BUT FOR THE  
MOMENT IS PROVIDING PEACE FOR HIS COUNTRY, WHICH STILL LIVES  
UNDER THE SHADOW OF VELASCO IBARRA " EL AUSENTE".

2. PERU - VELASCO ALVERADO, DESPITE HIS DEFECTS, IS  
UNDOUBTEDLY A LEADER AND A MAN OF PERSONAL COURAGE.  
AT THE SAME TIME, THE SITUATION SEEMS TO BE GETTING WORSE AND  
HE WILL RELY INCREASINGLY ON REPRESSION. THE GOVERNMENT  
IS AT DAGGERS-DRAWN WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND HAS STILL  
NOT MANAGED TO OBTAIN TRUE POPULAR SUPPORT. THE CLOSING  
OF THE PRIVATE NEWSPAPERS IS ONLY A FIRST STEP FOR AN  
INCREASINGLY AUTHORITARIAN RULE. FOR THE ABOVE REASONS,  
IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR MEXICO TO WORK CLOSELY WITH PERU  
ALTHOUGH THERE IS AN OCCASIONAL SHARED INTEREST OF A THIRD  
WORLD NATURE. IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO DO SOMETHING JOINTLY  
ON FISHING.

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3. ARGENTINA - PRESIDENT ISABELITA PERON'S POSITION IS  
FRAGILE AND TENUOUS. WHAT HAS SAVED HER SO FAR AND MAY  
CONTINUE TO SAVOR HER IS THE FACT THAT THERE ARE SO MANY  
COMPETING FACTIONS WAITING TO TAKE POWER IF SHE FAILS.  
NONE DARE PUSH HER OUT FOR FEAR THAT A COMPETITOR MAY WIN  
OUT. THE TWO PERSONS WHO SEEM TO HAVE THE GREATEST POWER  
AND INFLUENCE OVER HER ARE PRIVATE SECRETARY LOPEZ REGA  
AND FOREIGN MINISTER VIGNES. THE FACT THAT VIGNES IS MUCH  
MORE DISCREET IN GIVING HIS ADVISE MIGHT MAKE HIM IN THE  
LONG RUN STRONGER.

4. BRAZIL - ALL WERE AWED AT THE MATERIAL PROGRESS IN  
BRAZIL, AND MEXICO'S PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES WERE  
PARTICULARLY EUPHORIC. GEISEL WAS, IN ECHEVERRIA'S/  
RABASA'S OPINION, NOT A PERSON OF GREAT DEPTH (HOW PATRONIZING  
CAN YOU GET?) BUT SEEMED TO BE AT LEAST REASONABLE TO DEAL  
WITH. RABASA SAID THAT BRAZILIAN POSITION ON CUBA MIGHT  
BE LESS HARDLINE THAN HE HAD BEEN LED TO BELIEVE.

5. VENEZUELA - HERE IS WHERE PERHAPS THE MEXICAN PARTY ENCOUNTERED THE MOST ENTHUSIASM. THE TWO PRESIDENTS STRUCK IT OFF PARTICULARLY WELL, THERE WAS A COINCIDENCE OF VIEWS AND BOTH SHARED THE SAME STYLE OF OPERATING. WHILE THEY MAY LATER PROVE TO BE COMPETITORS FOR LEADERSHIP, THERE ARE POSSIBILITIES FOR INCREASING POLITICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

6. JAMAICA - THEY FOUND MANLEY TO BE EXTREMELY INTELLIGENT AND THE VISIT TO JAMAICA WAS PARTICULARLY SUCCESSFUL IN THAT IT SERVED TO BUILD BRIDGES TO THE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEANS WHO STILL DO NOT FEEL AT EASE OR "PART OF THE FAMILY" IN RELATION TO THE REST OF LATIN AMERICA.

COMMENT - RABASA DID NOT SEEM DOWN IN THE DUMPS AND IT MAY BE THAT RUMORS OF PRESIDENT'S COOLNESS TOWARD HIM AND OF HIS PROPOSED DEPARTURE FROM THE GOVERNMENT MAY BE EXAGGERATED. NEVERTHELESS, HE SPOKE WITH GREATER FRANKNESS, REALISM, AND LACK OF ENTHUSIASM IN REGARD TO ECHEVERRIA THAN AT ANY TIME IN THE PAST. WE WILL COMMENT LATER ON SO CALLED BRAIN TRUST, ITS COMPOSITION AND ALLEGED ROLE.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TRAVEL REPORTS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, CHARTER OF ECON RTS & DUTIES OF STS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 AUG 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** cunninfx  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974MEXICO06719  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740217-0494  
**From:** MEXICO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740864/aaaaccyr.tel  
**Line Count:** 252  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 5  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** cunninfx  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 11 SEP 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <11 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2003 by cunninfx>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S TRIP  
**TAGS:** PFOR, XM, MX, EC, PE, AR, BR, JM, (ECHEVERRIA ALVAREZ, LUIS)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005